

REMARKS

With the addition of new claims 33 to 39 and the cancellation herein without prejudice of claims 17, 22, and 27, claims 18 to 21, 23 to 26, and 28 to 39 are pending in the present application.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 paper, and cited references. With respect to the references disclosed in the prior IDS, which were apparently not provided by the International Search Authority, Applicants submit herewith a Supplemental IDS and PTO-1449 paper, which includes previously disclosed courtesy copies of the references. Accordingly, no fees are believed to be due. However, if a fee is due for consideration of this Supplemental IDS, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fee to the Kenyon & Kenyon LLP Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

As regards the objection to the specification, while Applicants do not agree with the merits of this objection, to facilitate matters, Applicants have amended the specification so as to obviate the present objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is therefore respectfully requested.

As regards to the objections to claims 30 to 32, while Applicants do not necessarily agree with the merits of the objections, to facilitate matters, Applicants have amended claims 30 to 32 to obviate the present objections. Withdrawal of the present objections to claims 30 to 32 is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 28 is allowable. In this regard, the Examiner will note that claim 28 has been rewritten herein in independent form and to include all of the features of its base claim and any intervening claim. The Examiner will further note that each of claims 18, 20, 21, 23 to 26, and 29 has been amended so that claims 18 to 21, 23 to 26, and 29 ultimately depends from claim 28. The Examiner will further note that each of claims 30 (from which claim 31 depends) and 32 has been amended herein without prejudice to include subject matter analogous to that of claim 28. Accordingly, claims 18 to 21, 23 to 26, and 28 to 32 are in condition for immediate allowance.

The remaining rejected claims have been canceled herein without prejudice, so as to obviate the remaining rejections.

New claims 33 to 39 have been added herein. Claims 33 to 39 do not add new matter and are supported by the present application, including the specification, as originally filed. Claims 33 to 39 depend from claim 28 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 28.

Accordingly, all of the pending claims 18 to 21, 23 to 26, and 28 to 39 have been allowed.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as previously presented in a continuation patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of pending claims 18 to 21, 23 to 26, and 28 to 39 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections and objections be withdrawn. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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